

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06600 222109Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W
-----230907Z 081458 /10

R 221501Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4154
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 6600
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGNS LAGGING

1. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) AND ITS YOUTH AFILIATE (FGCI) ARE EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGNS. IT SHOULD BE RECORDED THAT BETWEEN 1973 AND THE END OF 1976 PCI MEMBERSHIP INCREASED FROM 1,623,082 TO 1,814,262.

2. STATISTICS PUBLISHED IN THE SPRIL 17 ISSUE OF L'UNITA INDICATE THAT AS OF APRIL 14, THE 1977 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN HAD SUCCEEEDED IN ENROLLING 1,712,084 PEOPLE IN THE PARTY. THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE ONE YEAR EALRLIER (APRIL 15,1976) WAS 1,719,287 OR APPROXIMATELY SEVEN THOUSAND MORE MEMBERS. FIGURES PUBLISHED REGULARLY IN L'UNITA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN, AHAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN LOWER THAN THOSE FOR AN APPROXIMATELY CORRESPONDING DATE A YEAR EARLIER.

3. THE L'UNITA STATISTICS CONFIRM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD
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FROM A PCI REGIONAL COUNCILMAN WHO HAS TIES TO THE PARTY' LEADERSHIP. DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN ROME, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN IS LAGGING. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS IS PERHAPS A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWING THE RATHER LARGE INCREASES REGISTERED IN 1975 AND 1976 AS PEOPLE JOINED THE PCI BANDWAGON FOLLOWING THE ADMINISTRATIVE

AND NATIONAL ELECTIONSUCCESES OF THE PARY.HOWEVER,
HE WAS TOLD THAT THE MEMBERSHIP LAG IS MOST NATOBLE
IN A DECLING RENEWAL RATE AMONG PEOPLE SHO HAVE BEEN
PARTY MEMBERS MORE THAN A YEAR OR TWO. FINALLY, OUR
SOURCE SAID THAT THE MOST STRIKING DEVELOPMENT
IS THE LAG IN THE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR THE FGCI
WHICH, AS OF THE BEGINNING OF APRIL,WAS EXPERIENCING
A 20 PER CENT DROP IN MEMBERSHIP OVER THE CORRESPONDING
PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER. AT THE END OF 1976, FGCI HAD
A TOTAL OF 142/790.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MEMBERSHIP, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME06600
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ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2720932
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TAGS: PINT, IT, PCI, FGCI
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57188ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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